

Car Washing Best Management Practices



Everyone should be aware that the discharge of pollutants into the storm drainage system, or into surrounding water bodies, is prohibited by local ordinance and state and federal law. It is your responsibility to keep pollutants, like car wash water, out of the storm drainage system and local waterways.

If car washing is a central activity of your business, follow these tips:

- ◆ Since commercial vehicle washing discharges cannot be discharged to the storm drain, you must construct a wash pad that drains to the sanitary sewer. The pad should be covered with a roof and surrounding grades sloped away from the wash area, or the wash area should be bermed, to prevent additional drainage, such as stormwater runoff, from entering the sanitary sewers.
- ◆ Treat and recycle wash water to minimize water use and sanitary sewer discharges.
- ◆ Install an oil/grit separator if required by the sewer agency or building department.

If car washing is an occasional activity of your business, follow these tips:

- ◆ Avoid washing vehicles on site. Take vehicles to a commercial car wash that is properly connected to the sanitary sewer, or dry cloth the vehicles.
- ◆ If car washing is provided as a courtesy benefit to your customers, consider providing a voucher for a properly equipped commercial car wash instead.

CAR WASHING

Additional practices for mobile sales lots:

- ◆ Fleet and sales lot owners with solvents or cleaners and protective coatings for sale must collect these materials and ensure that the storm drain is never allowed to be discharged.
- ◆ Employees or contractors using cleaning agents on fleet vehicles must collect the materials and discharge it to the sanitary sewer. It is not permissible to allow the materials to evaporate, as the pollutants will be left behind and will be carried away by subsequent rainfall.

If washing your car at home, follow these tips:

- ◆ Using a commercial car wash properly equipped is the best option.
- ◆ If you choose to wash your car at home, use a car wash kit that is designed for home use.



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